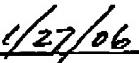


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
RECEIVED
Applicant: Jorge L. Orbay et al. Group Art Unit: 3738
Serial No.: 10/762,695 Examiner: Robert W. Amareld Jr.
Filed: Jan. 22, 2005 Attorney Docket: HAN-030
Title: Orthopedic Fixation System Including Plate Element with Threaded Holes
Having Divergent Axes

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 27 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to
571-273-8300 to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


David S. JacobsonDate


Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is a timely Reply to an Office Action dated October 28, 2005. Two dependent claims have been cancelled and two dependent claim have been added. No claim fee or extension fee is required, no fees are enclosed herewith. If any fee is due, please charge the fee to deposit account no. 07-1732.

Also attached is an Interview Summary of a telephone interview between the attorney for applicant, the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor.

1/22

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The attorney for applicant, the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor, Brian Pellegrino had a telephone interview for the present case on January 10, 2006. It was agreed that in view of MPEP 608.01(p)(B), the effective filing date for each claim in the present application is the filing date of the earliest application in the priority chain which supports such claim.

In view thereof, it has been agreed that the claims in the present application can be shown to be allowable over certain cited art by particularly pointing out where each element of a claim is supported in the Specification of applications which have an effective filing date prior to the date of a reference used in the rejection.